

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of claims:**

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A catamenial tampon for insertion in a human vagina, comprising:

- (a) an inner core comprising an absorbent material;
- (b) an outer layer comprising a liquid permeable material; and
- (c) a formulation effective in reducing the pH in a menstruating vagina or in a tampon inserted therein to below pH 5.5, the formulation comprising
  - 30-100 wt% of glycolide;
  - optionally, 15-97 wt% of a solid organic acid; and
  - optionally, 5-30 wt% of a wetting agent, based on the total weight of the formulation

30. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 29, the formulation further comprising lactide.

31. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 30, wherein lactide is present in the formulation in an amount of from 3 to 97 wt% based on the total weight of the formulation.

32. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 29, wherein glycolide is present in the formulation in an amount of from 30 to 80 wt% based on the total weight of the formulation.

33. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 29, wherein the formulation comprises the solid organic acid.

34. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 33, wherein the solid organic acid is present in the formulation in an amount of from 15 to 30 wt% based on the total weight of the formulation.

35. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 33, wherein the solid organic acid is selected from the group consisting of citric, malic, maleic, fumaric, succinic, tartaric, glycolic and oxalic acids.

36. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 29, wherein glycolide is present in the formulation in an amount of 100 wt% based on the total weight of the formulation.

37. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 29, wherein the formulation comprises a wetting agent in an amount of from 5 to 10 wt% based on the total weight of the formulation.

38. (New) The catamenial tampon according to claim 29, wherein the wetting agent is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, polyethylene glycol (PEG), polypropylene

glycol (PPG), Tween 80™, Poloxamer™ (Pluronic) and surfactants with an HLB ranging from 10 to 18.

39. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 29, wherein upon insertion of the catamenial tampon in a menstruating vagina the pH in the menstruating vagina or in the tampon is reduced to below 5.5 within about one hour or less from the time of insertion.

40. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 29, wherein upon insertion of the catamenial tampon in a menstruating vagina the pH in the menstruating vagina or in the tampon is reduced to below 5.5 within about 20 minutes or less from the time of insertion.

41. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 29, wherein upon insertion of the catamenial tampon in a menstruating vagina the pH in the menstruating vagina or in the tampon is reduced to below 5.5 within about 10 minutes or less from the time of insertion.

42. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 29, further comprising a polymeric support provided between the inner core and the outer layer.

43. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 42, wherein the formulation is deposited on the polymeric support.

44. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 29, wherein the catamenial tampon does not contain lactide, an organic acid, and/or a wetting agent.

45. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 29, wherein the catamenial tampon does not contain lactide, an organic acid, and a wetting agent.

46. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 45, further comprising a polymeric support provided between the inner core and the outer layer.

47. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 46, wherein the formulation is deposited on the polymeric support.

48. (New) A method for reducing the pH in a menstruating vagina to below pH 5.5, comprising inserting into the vagina, a catamenial tampon according to claim 45.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein after inserting, pH in the menstruating vagina is reduced to below pH 5.5 within one hour or less from the time of insertion.

50. (New) A catamenial tampon for insertion in a human vagina, comprising:

(a) an inner core comprising an absorbent material;

(b) an outer layer comprising a liquid permeable material; and

(c) a formulation effective in reducing the pH in a menstruating vagina or in the catamenial tampon inserted therein to below pH 5.5 within one hour or less from the time of insertion, comprising

30-100% by weight of glycolide;

optionally, 97-15% by weight of a solid organic acid; and  
optionally, 5-30% of a wetting agent.

51. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 50, wherein the formulation further comprises lactide.

52. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 50, wherein the formulation comprises 100 wt% glycolide, and the catamenial tampon does not contain lactide, an organic acid and a wetting agent.

53. (New) A catamenial tampon for insertion in a human vagina, comprising:

- (a) an inner core comprising an absorbent material;
- (b) an outer layer comprising a liquid permeable material;
- (c) a polymeric support provided between the inner core and the outer layer;

and

(d) a formulation deposited on the polymeric support, the formulation effective in reducing the pH in a menstruating vagina or in the catamenial tampon inserted therein to below pH 5.5, comprising

30-100% by weight of glycolide,  
optionally, 97-15% by weight of a solid organic acid, and  
optionally, 5-30% of a wetting agent.

54. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 53, wherein upon insertion of the catamenial tampon in a menstruating vagina the pH in the menstruating vagina or in the tampon is reduced to below 5.5 within about one hour or less from the time of insertion.

55. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 53, wherein upon insertion of the catamenial tampon in a menstruating vagina the pH in the menstruating vagina or in the tampon is reduced to below 5.5 within about 20 minutes or less from the time of insertion.

56. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 53, wherein upon insertion of the catamenial tampon in a menstruating vagina the pH in the menstruating vagina or in the tampon is reduced to below 5.5 within about 10 minutes or less from the time of insertion.

57. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 53, wherein the catamenial tampon does not contain lactide.

58. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 53, wherein the catamenial tampon does not contain lactide, an organic acid, and a wetting agent.

59. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 53, wherein the polymeric support comprises at least one strip having one or more layers.

60. (New) The catamenial tampon of claim 59, wherein the polymeric support comprises more than one strip, each strip having one or more layers.